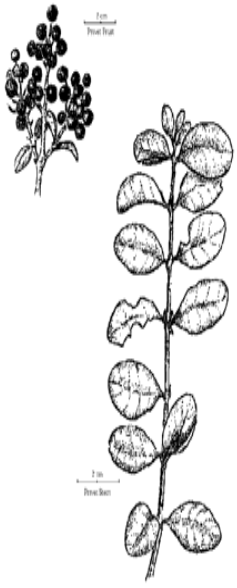
Privets

Χηινεσε Πριϖετ (Λ. σινενσε),
Ευροπεαν Πριϖετ (Λ. ϖυλγαρε),
ϑαπανεσε Πριϖετ (Λ. φαπονιχυμ)
Βορδερ Πριϖετ (Λιγυστρυμ οβτυσιφολιυμ)

Origin: Europe, China, Japan and Korea

Background
Various species of privet have been introduced to the United States as garden plants and are widely used as hedges. European privet was introduced sometime during the 1700s, obtuse-leaved privet in 1860, Japanese privet in 1945 and Chinese privet in 1952. They escaped cultivation and are now established throughout the eastern part of the country.

Description and Biology



Privets are stout, many-branched evergreen shrubs in the olive family (Oleaceae) that can grow to 15 feet tall. The compound deciduous leaves are oval to elliptical on short stalks. Small white flowers grow in clusters at ends of branches. Fruits are small blue-black berries produced during late summer to early fall. Seeds are dispersed by birds and other wildlife that eat the fruits and excrete seeds undamaged. Plants can also grow from stumps and stump sprouts.

Distribution and Ecological Threat
European privet occurs in scattered locations across the United States. Chinese and Japanese privet are found in the Southeast and Midwest. Border privet is found in most of the Northeast. Privets can invade floodplains, forests, wetlands and fields. Privets form dense thickets, out-competing native vegetation.

Habitat

Privet is often seen along roadsides and other areas of disturbed soil at elevations less than 915 m (3000 ft). Privet also becomes established in old fields and landscapes that have abundant sunlight. Blunt-leaved privet,*L. obtusifolium* (Sieb. and Zucc.), was found invading an old field succession site in Illinois. The field had an average of more than 6,082 plants per ha (2.5 acres). Privet can also spread into forests, though it does not produce fruit in low light.

Prevention and Control
Do not plant privets. Effective methods of control include Herbicidal Controls and Cut Stump Method Control. Small plants can be dug out. Spray larger plants leaves with glyphosate herbicide or paint on freshly cut stumps. Privet has no known biological controls. A foliage-feeding insect native to Europe,

Macrophya punctumalbum, is a known pest. Privet is also susceptible to a fungal leaf spot, *Pseudocercospora ligustri*, and a common root crown bacteria, *Agrobacterium tume-faciens*.

Native Alternatives include **inkberry** (*Ilex glabra*), **spicebush** (*Lindera benzoin*), **blackhaw** (*Viburnum prunifolium*), and **red or black chokeberry** (*Aronia arbutifolia* or *melanocarpa*)

Reference : www.invasive.org